**MR. PUTHUPALLI S. KRISHNA PILLAI:** The matter is under the consideration of Government, as has been already stated in the answer.

*Handloom Weaving Industries.*

263. ***MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN:** Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether a considerable section of the people of the State are engaged in handloom weaving industry ;

(*b*) whether the handloom weaving industry requires protection and encouragement ; and

(*c*) if so, whether any measures have been taken ?

**MR. C. KUMARA DAS:** (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

**MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN:** May I know the measures taken towards protection and encouragement of the handloom weaving industry ?

**MR. C. KUMARA DAS:** The handloom weavers have been supplied with yarn at a cheaper cost. The competition from mill yarn has been minimised. The Government have already taken measures to provide yarn at reduced rates.

**MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN:** May I know whether yarn is at present available at cheaper rates ?

**MR. C. KUMARA DAS:** Government have made arrangements with some firms to supply yarn at cheaper rates. That is the understanding which we have come to.

**PRESIDENT:** Necessary arrangements have been made in that direction.

**MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN:** May I know whether yarn could be obtained at cheaper rates at present in Travancore ?

**MR. C. KUMARA DAS:** I have already said that Government have come to some understanding with a firm having dealings in Travancore. It is expected that the yarn could be had at cheaper rates.

**MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN:** May I know whether it is possible for Government to get at some such arrangement from the available firms in Travancore for the supply of yarn ?

**MR. C. KUMARA DAS:** Government have made arrangements with a firm.

**MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN:** My question is whether Government are in a position to know about the reduced price of yarn from the markets available in Travancore and advertise it to the benefit of the handloom weaving industries ?

**MR. C. KUMARA DAS:** That has already been done by Government.

**MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN:** May I know whether yarn is available at present at cheaper rates as a consequence of the arrangements made by Government so far ?

**PRESIDENT:** Has that not been given publicity ?

**MR. C. KUMARA DAS:** The Department has issued circulars to all the weavers known to them and some of them have replied that they are getting the yarn at cheaper rates.

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**MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN:** My doubt is whether the Government have made any arrangement by which yarn could be obtained at cheaper rates by persons engaged in the handloom weaving industry in the State.

**PRESIDENT:** That is just what the department has done.

*Industries in the State.*

264. ✱**MR. P. KUNJUKRISHNAN:** Will the Government be pleased to state what measures they have taken since the outbreak of the present war for fostering and organising industries in the State in the light of the new situation that has arisen?

**MR. C. KUMARA DAS:** (1) Special arrangements were made for the supplies of certain chemicals required for industrial purposes.

(2) Yarns were arranged for and procured at advantageous rates.

(3) Adequate arrangements were made for increasing the output of the Ceramic Factory.

(4) Investigations are being made about the possibility of manufacturing cement and bleaching powder in the State.

(5) Negotiations are in progress with reference to the installation of an aluminium production plant.

*Ceramic Factory at Kundara.*

265. ✱**MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the original estimate for the chimney at the Ceramic Factory at Kundara;

(*b*) whether the chimney is cracked in several places; and

(*c*) the amount spent in repairing the same?

**MR. C. KUMARA DAS:** (*a*) Rs. 11,344.

(*b*) There are a few cracks, and steps have been taken for remedying this.

(*c*) Rs. 1,134.

*Mining operations at the Clay Refining and Porcelain Factory at Kundara.*

266. ✱**MR. P. NARAYANA PILLAI:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) under whose supervision the mining operations at the Clay Refining and Porcelain Factory at Kundara are being conducted; and

(*b*) his qualifications for this post?

**MR. C. KUMARA DAS:** (*a*) Mr. Bankey Beharilal C. I. S. M., Mining Supervisor.

(*b*) He is a diploma holder of the Government of India School of Mines, Dhanbad and has experience in Mining operations, assaying, ore dressing, underground field work and surveying.

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